

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 are presently active; Claim 1 having been amended by the present amendment; Claim 4 having been canceled by the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected due to informalities. Figure 2 was objected to for not having a legend such as “Prior Art”. Claim 2 was objected due to informalities. Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant’s admitted prior art Fig. 2 in view of Toritsukau (Jap. No. 05067934). Claim 2 and 4 were objected to for being dependent from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding the objection to the specification, the specification has been amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the specification has been overcome.

Regarding the objection to the drawing, on the replacement sheet, Figure 2 has been labeled with - -Prior Art--. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings has been overcome.

Regarding the objection to the claims, the claims have been amended to address the informalities. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the claims has been overcome.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2 and 4. In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 4. Accordingly, it is respectfully

Application No. 10/785,064
Reply to Office Action of July 13, 2005

submitted that Claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom patentably define over the applied prior art.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
EHK:TY:clh

Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

I:\ATTY\TY\AMEND-RESPONSES\0039\249246\AM.DOC

Application No. 10/785,064
Reply to Office Action of July 13, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawing includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1-2, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1-2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet.